

Report on the Status of B.C. First Nations Languages 2014

First Peoples' Cultural Council



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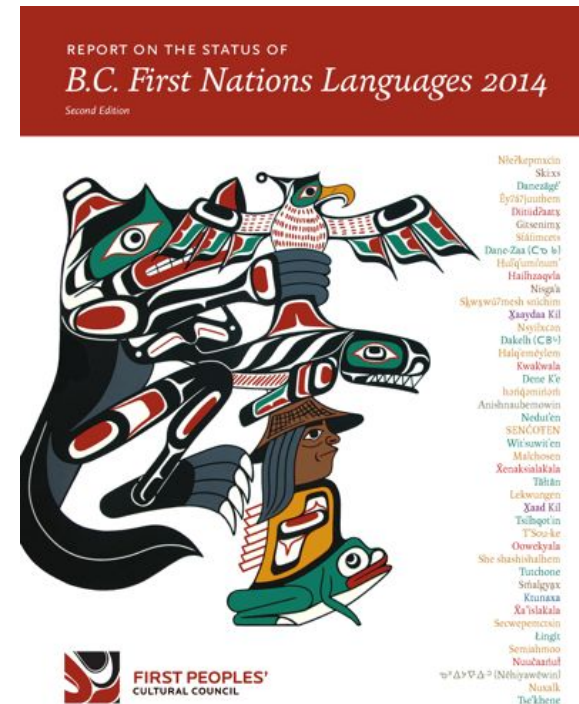
- First Nations-directed Crown Agency
- Established in 1990
- Legislation - *First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Act*
- Activities:
 - Funding for Arts, Language & FirstVoices programs
 - Resource and materials development
 - Training and support
 - Advocacy for First Nations languages, arts and culture



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Why did we create this report?

- To define levels of language vitality for B.C.
- To provide evidence for the continued need to ACT
- To give direction on language revitalization strategies
- ... and, to provide an update on the current situation, 4 years later



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B.C. First Nations' Languages

- 34 languages
- 61+ varieties (dialects)
 - ➔ *60% of all First Nations languages in Canada*
- 203 First Nations communities, plus urban populations



The Data

Where does the data come from?

- Language Needs Assessments
 - filled out by communities
- Independent research by FPCC staff

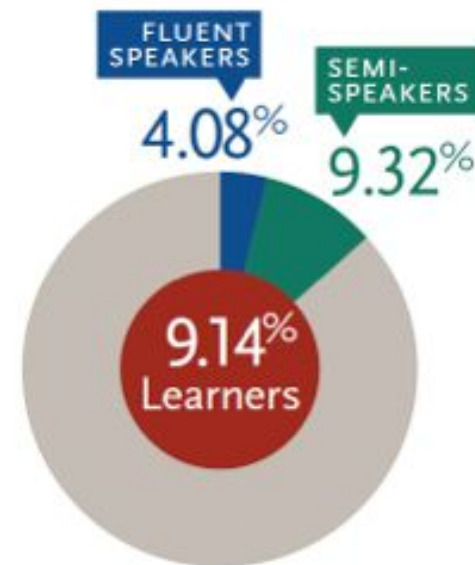


The Numbers:

- Communities: **185** reported (203 total)
- Population: **129,730** reported (155,020 total)
- Languages: **32** reported (34 total)



Results: Speakers



| Speaker | Total | % of B.C. First Nations population |
|-----------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| Fluent speakers | 5,289 | 4.08% |
| Semi-speakers | 12,092 | 9.32% |
| Learners | 11,862 | 9.14% |



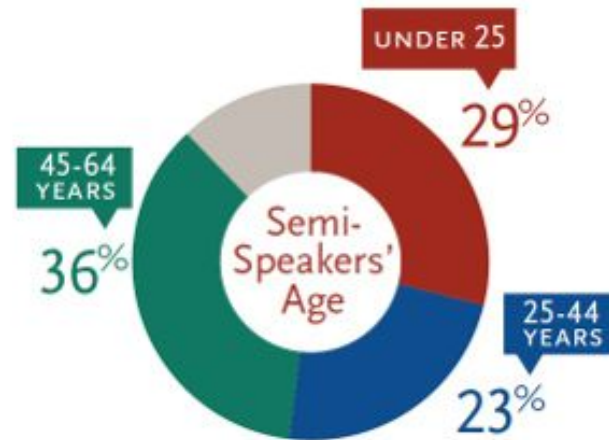
Key Findings

- the number of fluent speakers is decreasing

| Fluent Speakers | | | |
|-----------------|------|-------|-------|
| 2010 | | 2014 | |
| 5,609 | 5.1% | 5,289 | 4.08% |



Results: Age of Speakers



| Age | Fluent | Semi-speaker | Learner |
|-------------|--------|--------------|---------|
| 65+ years | 59.04% | 11.48% | 1.86% |
| 45-64 years | 34.73% | 35.95% | 9.77% |
| 25-44 years | 5.17% | 23.14% | 10.39% |
| 0-24 years | 1.06% | 29.43% | 77.98% |



Key Findings

- the number of semi-speakers is increasing
- 88% of semi-speakers are under 65 years old

| Semi-Speakers | | | |
|---------------|------|---------------|--------------|
| 2010 | | 2014 | |
| 8,948 | 8.2% | 12,092 | 9.32% |



Results: Language in Education (Usage)

| School Type | Number Reported | Students Attending | Hours Spent on Language (avg.) |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| First Nations Operated | 98 | 4,931 | 5.7 hours |
| Head Start Programs | 93 | 1,622 | 6.5 hours |
| Language Nests (Funded by FPCC) | 10 | 84 | 15.5 hours |



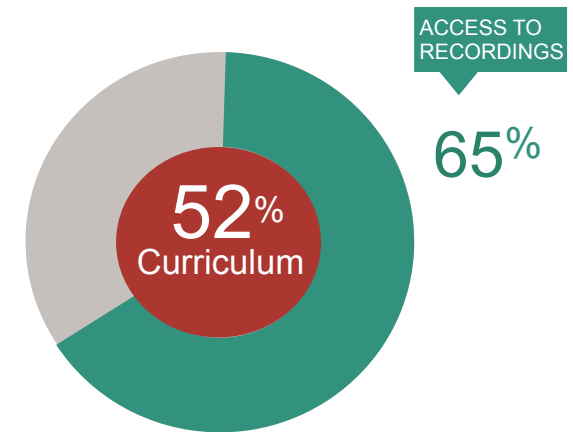
Key Findings

- very few schools are implementing immersion
- current language instruction insufficient to achieve fluency

| Education | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 2010 | | 2014 | |
| 4,214 students | 7.2 hrs/ week of language | 4,931 students | 5.73 hrs/ week of language |



Results: Language Resources



| Language Resources | Number Reported | % of Communities |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Language Recordings | 120 | 65% |
| Language Curriculum Materials | 97 | 52% |
| Access to FirstVoices.com Archive | 117 | 63% |
| FirstVoices.com Training and Funding | 17 | 8.4% |



Key Findings

- significant increase in access to recordings
- need for increased curriculum development

| Resources | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 2010 | | 2014 | |
| 31% | 52% | 65% | 52% |
| recordings | curriculum | recordings | curriculum |



Resources

- First Peoples' Cultural Council website:
www.fpcc.ca
- FirstVoices: www.firstvoices.com
- First Peoples' language map of B.C.:
maps.fpcc.ca



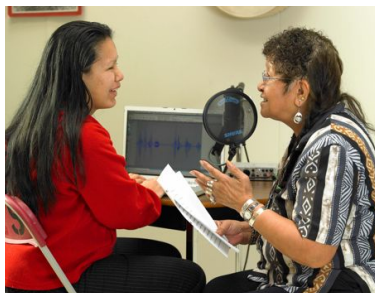
Effective Strategies



- Partnerships & Collaboration



- Language Immersion



- Documentation & Archiving



What is being done?

- Immersion programming for all ages
- Post-secondary partnerships
- Collaboration and planning
- Community mobilization
- Education and teacher training
- Archiving and documentation



www.fpcc.ca

www.firstvoices.com

www.fp-artsmap.ca

www.fpcf.ca

www.endangeredlanguages.com



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